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Subject: IDL's function SFIT coefficients

Posted by [George\[1\]](#) on Mon, 17 Mar 2014 16:36:03 GMT

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Hi Everyone,

I am stuck on what seems to be a very simple problem and I would be very grateful if I could get some assistance. That is, I want to use the coefficients (kx=coeff) from SFIT so I can have a functional form of the 2nd degree polynomial fit. However, this is not as straightforward as I thought...or I am missing something very obvious -- which I wouldn't put past me.

Note: there is another SFIT topic on this forum, but it did not help.

The problem: I have a 2d array of data that I would like to fit using SFIT. The values returned from SFIT match the data quite well (just eyeing it for now), but when I use the coefficients to reproduce the function, I get nonsense. The IDL help file says if the polynomial is 2nd order and max\_degree is used then the coeffs are returned in an vector that looks like this: [k, y, y2, x, xy, x2]. Below is a block of code that shows how I used the coefficients to calculate my surface fit (s\_fit).

```
x = [1.,2.,3.,4.,5.,6.,7.,8.,9.]
y=[100.,200.,300.,500.,1000.,2000.,3000.,5000.,10000.]
result = sfit(amp,2,kx=coeff,/max_degree) ;*****amp is my 2d data array
s_fit = fltarr(n_elements(x),n_elements(y))
FOR ii=0,n_elements(y)-1 DO BEGIN
  FOR kk=0,n_elements(x)-1 DO BEGIN  s_fit[kk,ii]=coeff[0]+coeff[3]*x(kk)+coeff[1]*y(ii)+coeff[5]
*x(kk)*x(kk)+coeff[4]*x(kk)*y(ii)+coeff[2]*y(ii)*y(ii)
  ENDFOR
ENDFOR
```

I double and triple checked that the independent variables are not switched and that the coeffs match the IDL help file. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Also, please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Regards,  
George

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Subject: Re: IDL's function SFIT coefficients

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 17 Mar 2014 17:12:33 GMT

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On Monday, March 17, 2014 12:36:03 PM UTC-4, George wrote:

> The problem: I have a 2d array of data that I would like to fit using SFIT. The values returned from SFIT match the data quite well (just eyeing it for now), but when I use the coefficients to reproduce the function, I get nonsense. The IDL help file says if the polynomial is 2nd order and max\_degree is used then the coeffs are returned in an vector that looks like this: [k, y, y2, x, xy,

x2]. Below is a block of code that shows how I used the coefficients to calculate my surface fit (s\_fit).

```
>
>
>
> x = [1.,2.,3.,4.,5.,6.,7.,8.,9.]
>
> y=[100.,200.,300.,500.,1000.,2000.,3000.,5000.,10000.]
>
> result = sfit(amp,2,kx=coeff,/max_degree) ;*****amp is my 2d data array
...
> FOR kk=0,n_elements(x)-1 DO BEGIN
s_fit[kk,ii]=coeff[0]+coeff[3]*x(kk)+coeff[1]*y(ii)+coeff[5]
*x(kk)*x(kk)+coeff[4]*x(kk)*y(ii)+coeff[2]*y(ii)*y(ii)
```

By default, SFIT assumes that X and Y are regularly sampled. Your Y values are not regularly sampled. I guess you need to use the /IRREGULAR keyword for that.

Craig

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Subject: Re: IDL's function SFIT coefficients  
Posted by [George\[1\]](#) on Mon, 17 Mar 2014 17:48:44 GMT  
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On Monday, March 17, 2014 12:12:33 PM UTC-5, Craig Markwardt wrote:

> On Monday, March 17, 2014 12:36:03 PM UTC-4, George wrote:

```
>
>> The problem: I have a 2d array of data that I would like to fit using SFIT. The values returned
from SFIT match the data quite well (just eyeing it for now), but when I use the coefficients to
reproduce the function, I get nonsense. The IDL help file says if the polynomial is 2nd order and
max_degree is used then the coeffs are returned in an vector that looks like this: [k, y, y2, x, xy,
x2]. Below is a block of code that shows how I used the coefficients to calculate my surface fit
(s_fit).
```

```
>
>>
>
>>
>
>>
>
>> x = [1.,2.,3.,4.,5.,6.,7.,8.,9.]
>
>>
>
>> y=[100.,200.,300.,500.,1000.,2000.,3000.,5000.,10000.]
>
>>
```

```
>
>> result = sfitt(amp,2,kx=coeff,/max_degree) ;*****amp is my 2d data array
>
> ...
>
>>  FOR kk=0,n_elements(x)-1 DO BEGIN
s_fit[kk,ii]=coeff[0]+coeff[3]*x(kk)+coeff[1]*y(ii)+coeff[5]
*x(kk)*x(kk)+coeff[4]*x(kk)*y(ii)+coeff[2]*y(ii)*y(ii)
>
>
>
> By default, SFIT assumes that X and Y are regularly sampled.  Your Y values are not regularly
sampled.  I guess you need to use the /IRREGULAR keyword for that.
>
>
>
> Craig
```

Perfect! I misunderstood the meaning of /IRREGULAR, but when I read your post it "clicked."  
Thank you very much Craig.

On a side note, I should also say thank you for your MPFIT routines -- they've been a big help in  
other analyses.

Regards,  
George

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